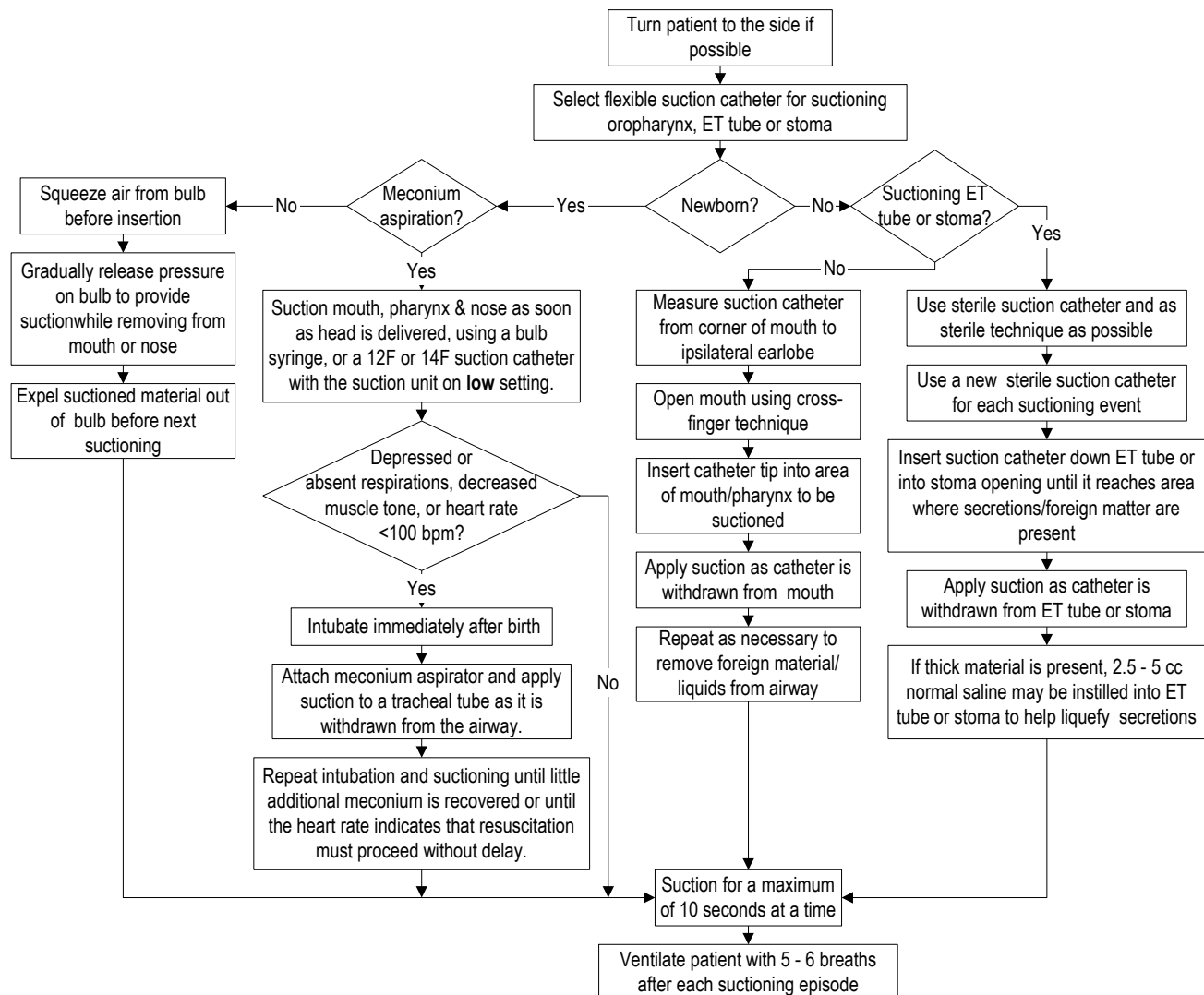


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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
PRACTICAL SKILL  
SUCTIONING**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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<b>Purpose:</b> To remove foreign material from the upper airway, endotracheal tube, and Combi-tube		<b>Indications:</b> Patient with foreign material in upper airway	
<b>Advantages:</b> Clears foreign material and liquids from the airway	<b>Disadvantages:</b> Removes air May introduce bacteria into the airway	<b>Complications:</b> Hypoxia Oral trauma May stimulate vomiting	<b>Contraindications:</b> None



**NOTES:**

- Suctioning removes air as well as secretions. Ventilate with 5-6 breaths supplemental oxygen after each procedure.
- During suctioning, the ECG monitor (or pulse rate if not on a monitor) should be observed to quickly identify if bradycardia - an indicator of hypoxia - occurs.
- The rigid suction tip can cause airway trauma and is NOT to be used in a moving vehicle.
- Aggressive suctioning of a newborn may cause a vagal bradycardia.
- Use a length based tape to select the appropriate catheter size for suctioning a newborn.